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Musket

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Junior Darlene Meehan takes time for some studying before heading off to lunch.

Photo by Andrew Sung

'95 Budget Undergoes Dramatic Changes

by Yun Yung

Last month the School Committee reported a $2.6 million budget deficit for fiscal year 1995, and, among other cuts, there was talk of cutting all stipends for club advisors, programming cuts in the music department, and of whether Hastings Elementary School would open.

One month later, the town has suddenly located enough funds through various "belt-tightening" actions to pull Lexington's schools through another year without any major slashing of programs. The reasons, as reported in the March 31 issue of the Minuteman , are listed below. If all the savings follow through, an estimated $2,628,462 would be freed up.

-Lexington will save $180,000 by freezing wages for school workers;
-$164,000 by changing the pension contributions for part-time employees;
-$398,462 by changing the early retirement plan for teachers;
-$43,000 by changing the parking system in the Meriam Street parking lot by instituting automated parking and perhaps raising parking fees in the Center;
-$70,000 from lower than anticipated trash tipping fees at the Andover waste-to-energy facility;
-$68,851 from lower than anticipated assessment for Minuteman Tech;
-$250,000 by freezing municipal workers' wages;
-$30,149 from various reductions in the town budget;
-$150,000 from additional revenue from lottery funds;
-$150,000 from a transfer of money from the Recreative Enterprise Fund to the Public Works Department budget;
-$724,000 from the town's Free Cash;
-$400,000 from a reduction in the school budget through program and class cuts.

The school system would still suffer a $400,000 deficit and the reduction in school programs would come in several forms. Classes such as architectural drawing, AP computer science, level I pre-engineering drawing, and level III geometry have already been cut from the Program of Studies for the 1995 school year, but Lexington High School would, according to Principal David A. Wilson, also lose three to four teachers. Moreover, after course selection sheets are run through the computer, courses with fewer than fifteen enrolled students would not be offered.

Extracurricular activities would not be affected by the new budget, as stipends for their advisors would not be eliminated.

It seems Lexington was saved by a combination of good luck, wage freezes, and overestimated fees this year, but quandaries are evident. The very possibility of freezing wages have sparked concern by town officials and employees, and any finalized unfreezing of wages will send policy makers back to budget drawing boards. William Dailey, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, also points out that the town only has $1 million in reserve in Free Cash, an amount he recommends the town not go below.

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Robinson Ends 18-Year Legacy

by Shahak Nagiel

This June, as students prepare to unwind for summer break, Assistant Principal Larry Robinson will be preparing for a new career as Principal Robinson of Littleton High School. Robinson, known to some as "the guy with the hair," will be concluding his eighteen year tenure in Lexington. Come A block in September, students will no longer hear Robinson's familiar voice greet them a hearty "good morning."

Robinson, in seeking a higher position elsewhere, turned down two other towns before electing to go with Littleton, a combination junior-senior high school with 500 students. A question that has

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Ad Ultimatum Hits Yearbook & Newspaper

by Offer Egozy and Li-Cheng Wang

Recently the staff of the LHS yearbook reached a final decision to reject an advertisement submitted by the Lexington Parents Information Network (LEXNET), a parent organization chaired by Douglas Yeo. The group, whose stated goal is "to strengthen public education...by informing parents and enabling them to become more involved in their children's education," wanted the ad run on a full page in the 1994 yearbook. The ad states, "We know you can do it! ABSTINENCE. The Healthy Choice."

Yearbook editors Dow-Chung Chi and Natalie Berger stated that the staff rejected the ad because they felt that yearbooks were intended to be "personal keepsakes." Chi added, "The yearbook's purpose is to chronicle the school year and to provide a history book for the students to remember they year by. Mr. Yeo's noncommercial, advocacy ad would open the floodgates for all other such ads. This establishes a precedent for other groups to submit opinion ads. This could turn the yearbook into a public bulletin board."

LEXNET also mailed a similar advertisement to the Musket in early November. The ad contained the added line, "For accurate information on abstinence, safer sex and condoms, contact LEXNET..." After consulting with Editor-in-Chief Ivan Chan and Faculty Advisor Sam Kafrissen, Business Editor Dong Shen informed Yeo in late February that the Musket would not accept the ad.

In the past few weeks all of the local T.V. news stations have covered this issue as have the Boston Globe and the Lexington Minuteman. Superintendent has held several meetings with members of both publication's staffs and, has been interviewed frequently, as has Yeo, by local reporters.

Currently, the Musket editorial board is still in discussion over the matter and is in regular consultation with both the superintendent and with legal counsel. Nevertheless, Chan and Kafrissen have publicly offered Yeo that LEXNET take advantage of the Letters to the Editor section of the paper to elaborate and clarify its position on abstinence. Kafrissen explained to Yeo in a letter that a Letter to the Editor would provide a better vehicle for giving opinions and discussing complex lifestyle issues.

The Musket advertisement policy defines the Letters section as the only section that "should be considered a public forum within the Musket ."

Both in person and by way of LEXNET's newsletter, INFORM, Yeo has accused both the yearbook and the paper of practicing censorship and political prejudice. Yeo's claim partially rests on the fact that the two publications are partially publicly funded and that they take advertising from commercial businesses. Yeo, in INFORM, contended that the Musket is "legally wrong in censoring the ads."

In recent attempts to contact Douglas Yeo, Musket reporters have been referred to Craig Parshall, an attorney at the Rutherford Institute in Virginia, which is a legal group that specializes in religious civil liberties issues. Parshall stated in the Minuteman , "Rejection of the ads was improper based on understanding of the right of equal access and of free speech." In addition, the group has threatened to "take legal

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Assistant Principal Larry Robinson will soon be Principal Robinson. After 18 years at LHS, Robinson will be taking the job at Littleton.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

Junior Elaina Devasto does some word processing at the LHS Library.

Photo by Andrew Sung

Math Team Captures Amazing Accolades

by Johanna Klein

The LHS Math Team is nearing the end of a stellar year during which it has won every regional championship in which it has competed, making the best team season in years.

The math team is comprised of approximately thirty "mathletes," as they have been christened by team leader Saleh Rahman.

This year's participants include Peter Jung, Jonathan Weinstein (team captain), Timothy Shiau, Selim Berker, Kenneth Shei, Alan Wu, Susan Park, Rahul Biswas, Christopher Amar, Christopher Unkel, Peter Ouyang, Matthew Nichols, Omri Traub, Jean Park, Sudheer Gaddam, Michael Roman, Peter Litwack, Hey Sung Han, Tim Dunn, Felicia Kuo, Phil Davis, Aaron Adler, David Liu, Tom Ni, Jeemin Lee, W. Trevor Uhl, Matt Lehar, Jeff Chen, and Aaron Adler.

Also team members are sixth grader Yuen Jong Liu and seventh grader Kenneth Weinstein.

Each of these students has participated in some of the year's competitions.

Bursting onto the scene at the beginning of the year, the math team won first place out of over ninety schools at the Worchester Polytechnic Institute's competition, as well as first place at the UMass Lowell competition.

More recently, the team has won first place in several regional competitions; it triumphed in the Greater Boston Math League championship for the first time since the 1970's, winning with 384 points over its closest rival Canton's 350 points.

Top GBML scorers were invited to the State Championship, which Lexington won with a score of 130 points over Canton's 103.

Lexington was also victorious in the Massachusetts Mathematics League competition for the first time in many years. On April 29, LHS will compete in the New EnglandInvitational Championship.

The New England Mathematics League is a year-long competition that includes over 200 member schools whose teams complete six tests worth thirty points each, the cumulative scores of which determine the victor. The LHS Math Team achieved 169 out of a possible 180 points, winning the championship over close rivals Framingham and Canton.

Lexington is also effective in national competition. In the Continental Calculus Exam, our team is estimated to be among the top two or three percent in the country, and it is in fourth place nationally as of round three in the Mandelbrot Competition.

In the American High School Mathematics Exam, a 150 point test, every team member plus Ping-Cheng Wu and Yukiko Sekino scored over 100. Jonathan Weinstein and Jung scored perfect 150's, and Shiau reached a score of 145.

The team's performance earned them a spot in the American Invitational Mathematics Exam. AHSME and AIME scores are combined for a total which, if high enough, qualifies the scorer to attend the USA Math Olympics.

AIME results have not arrived as of the time this article was written, but Rahman anticipates several qualifiers.

News Briefs

Lexington Home to 20 National Merit Finalists

• Honored at a recent town meeting by dignitaries such as State Representative Stephen W. Doran were seniors Selim Berker, Marion Gross, Angela Hadwin, Andreas Hipple, Shen-Kiat Lim, John Lin, Katie Ludwig, Elizabeth Maharry, Yvonne Ou, Mandy Patrick, Christina Post, Dong Shen, Michael Tsung, Alexis Teplick, Trevor Uhl, Li-Cheng Wang, Masha Wasilewsky, Jonathan Weinstein, and John Wells.

Diversity Working Groups Established for Schools

• To support its set of core values of individuality and diversity, shared responsibility and continuous improvement, the Lexington school system has set up two working groups to examine and work toward diversity in the schools. The Cultural Diversity Committee has focused on, among other issues, professional training in diversity issues as well as minority achievement differentials. The other working group, the Diversity Task Force, has adopted a mission to: enlarge the recruitment network and reach out to the widest range of candidates, secure training for interview teams and those involved in hiring, and promote a sensitive school environment that will be welcoming to each person in all categories of employment. Various members of the school community, including parents, students, and faculty members take part in the groups.

'94 Competition Winners Accompany Orchestra

• Winners of the annual concerto competition sponsored by the LHS Orchestra performed on April 13 in the auditorium. The featured soloists were sophomore Jean Park, who played the first movement of Beethoven's Violin Concerto, and juniors Yukiko Sekino and Shirling Tsai, who performed the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 respectively.

—Compiled by Ivan Chan

Advertisement Swirls *Musket* in Controversy

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action" if the LEXNET advertisements do not run.

Chan commented that the Musket policy has far-reaching implications, "...if we let the [LEXNET] ad go through, we could lose control over our advertisement space. This means we may have to print any ad that promotes a certain lifestyle as being healthiest, ranging from promiscuity to abstinence."

However, Yeo has continued to publicly characterize this as an issue of "censorship." "I find it hard to believe anyone could find abstinence objectionable," Yeo stated. In response, Chan, in a statement to the press, asserted that this "is not an issue over abstinence, Mr. Yeo, LEXNET, or censorship. The Musket standards for advertisements are clear-cut and apply across the board."

Both Chan and Advisor Kafrissen noted past student newspaper controversies to exemplify the possible complications of allowing opinion ads to run. In a San Diego area school, "Resist the Draft" ads were printed because earlier, recruitment ads were allowed to run.

Yearbook and Musket staffs have received legal assistance from both the Student Press Law Center in Washington, D.C. as well as the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. Mike Hiestand, a lawyer at the Law Center, noted that Massachusetts is one of five states where legislation has been passed that "specifically protects the free expression rights of high school students through their publications." SPLC Executive Director Mark Goodman added, "The courts have repeatedly said that advertisers have no legal claim when students reject their advertisements."

"It's legally very clear; the staff of a publication can make their own decisions as to what will or won't be included in their publication," stated Goodman, who added that in his reading of the law, "compelling a newspaper to print something is just as illegal as preventing it from doing so. In either case it amounts to censorship."

Superintendent Young has stated repeatedly that the advice he is receiving from the town counsel on the Massachusetts law fully supports the students' right to make their own decisions on these issues. Young has assured both yearbook and Musket staffs that both he and the school committee will protect the students' right to decide until a court ruling determines otherwise.

Robinson Takes Job in Littleton

Continued from Page 1

come up recently among some people is why Robinson would choose to leave a good position in a highly respected school for a smaller school and a lower salary. "Littleton has a good reputation," explained Robinson, "and I just feel as though it's time to change. I love this job [at LHS], but it's time to move on."

Plans at Littleton have already been established. Robinson has explained that he intends to maintain as much student interaction as possible and to become highly involved with the staff. Moreover, Robinson plans to visit other communities to obtain ideas about ways to improve academic management at Littleton.

While making plans and looking ahead with confidence and optimism, Robinson knows that the transition process will be a difficult one. "I'll miss the SAC and all the kids who drop by every day and hang out here...at least as principal it'll be much quieter," he joked.

Many students will miss Robinson's presence at Lexington as well. Senior Kate Olivier noted, "He's been really supportive of me ever since I met him as a freshman. Whenever class council came to him with a new idea, he was more than willing to help out. We'll all miss him."

Robinson hopes that the school will continue to bring in good teachers to replace those who are and will be retiring in the near future. "The high school will always have problems," Robinson noted, "but it's still one of the best schools around, and I hope it stays that way." The school committee is currently in the process of selecting a replacement for Robinson, although no choice has been announced thus far. "I'm confident that they'll choose the most qualified person for the job," said Robinson.

Despite a commute to Littleton for work, Robinson will continue to live in Lexington with no intentions of moving. He also intends to keep his famous style, "I have no plans to change any aspect of either the hair, the wardrobe, or the boots."

Sophomore Matt Kishlansky, after receiving a good grade on his biology exam, beams at the camera.

—Photo by Andrew Sung

Donor Sponsors *Schindler* Viewing

by Amy Lowenthal

"As time passes on, other events take place, and it becomes harder to remember..." These words that social studies Department Head Anthony Palladino recited in reference to the Holocaust is the main reason why he and other social studies teachers decided to take the entire sophomore class to the movie "Schindler's List." About a month and a half ago, an anonymous benefactor contacted social studies Coordinator John Papadonis and offered to finance a sophomore class trip to see the movie. Palladino and the other teachers jumped at this opportunity.

This full-day field trip, what Palladino called an "event," consisted of four periods of class time discussing "Schindler's List" and the Holocaust as well as a follow-up discussion with a speaker.

The four periods of class time were spent reading and discussing selected materials describing the Holocaust, preparing sophomores for the movie, and, essentially, bringing the students to "common ground," commented Palladino. Although this four day unit added insight into the movie, Palladino added that it was really just a "snapshot" into the Holocaust, as the sophomores would be covering this period of history much more in depth later this year.

Rena Finder, a Holocaust survivor, maybe speaking to the sophomores in small groups after Memorial Day weekend. It seems especially significant that Finder speak because she was actually one of the Schindlerjuden, a child whose life was saved because of Oskar Schindler's courage and humanity. Palladino explained that another speaker wouldn't have the "same impact" on the sophomores as Finder would have because she had actually been there.

Some sophomores, however, were concerned about seeing the movie with their class. One sophomore explained that "it's not the type of movie you go to with your friends." Another girl feared that some students "won't be sensitive" and that seeing it at school "won't do justice to the movie." However, the school hoped that all the preparation given to the students before the film would prevent these dilemmas.

Many students were nonetheless excited about seeing the film. Sophomore Robin Marcus commented that "it was a very generous offer and it will be worthwhile," while fellow classmate Lisa Gordon commented that "it's a really great idea and kids are learning a lot." The sophomores attended the showing on April 4.

SENATE ATTENDANCE

JUNE 2, 1993-APRIL 6,1994 (28 MEETINGS)

Your Representatives	Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
Class of 1994		
Paul Abbott	0	0
Ivan Chan	0	0
Katie Ludwig	0	0
Kate Olivier	2	0
Yvonne Ou	1	0
Dong Shen	0	0
Fred Simon	0	0
Class of 1995		
Kit Connolly	1	1
Sam Handlin	2	0
Karen Kelley	3	0
Dan MacLean	1	0
Alyssa Rayman-Read	0	0
Jonas Woolverton	0	0
Class of 1996		
Emily Blumsack	1	0
Lily Filip	1	0
Dalia Hochman	2	0
Susie Kwon	4	0
Monica Martinez	0	0
Margot Minardi	0	0
Dave Myung	2	0
Class of 1997		
Crystal Cordell	2	2
Jesse Herman	1	0
Bob MacLean	0	0
Tom Passarini	0	0
Tessa Randall	4	2
Alissa Roeder	1	0
Faculty		
Wendy Cordero	1	0
Peggy Dyro	1	0
Michael Fiveash	0	0
Karen Girondel	3	0
Sam Kafrissen	3	0
Sal Lopes	4	0
Dave Spang	0	0
Chuck Swartz	4	0
Susan Rubini	4	0
Open Seats		
Mark Steere	3	0

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Hurry into Mr. Tux to fill out an official entry form.
*Restrictions Apply
*All Details at Mr. Tux

Members of this year's Science Olympiad team relish their finish among the top participants.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

Science Olympiad Achieves Fourth

by Rupa Mukherjee

On March 12, the Lexington High School Science Olympiad team won fourth place at the Massachusetts State Olympiad tournament. The first place team, Cambridge Ringe and Latin, qualified for the national competition. In second place was St. John's Prep and in third place, Acton-Boxborough. Eighteen schools attended this tournament, which was held at Wheaton College. Prior to this victory, on February 5, the Lexington team placed fourth at the regional meet.

Although the team members were excited with their fourth place recognition, they had something else to celebrate. This year, the LHS Olympiad team beat its long established rival, Newton North.

The Lexington team was composed of students from all grades. It mainly comprised of juniors and seniors, but the few freshmen who were involved showed much promise. Susan Park and Jane Sohn were this year's co-captains. Physics teacher Newton Kupelian and student teacher Ephraim Lessell were the team's advisors. The participating students included Jean Park, Ethan Handwerker, Alan Wu, Johanna Bobrow, Dave Mimno, Rupa Mukherjee, Yun Yung, Josie Lee, Jon Weinstein, Ivan Chan, John Chang, Vic Karkar, Jacob Kasell, Jeff Kwan, Lora Schwartz, Tim Shiau, David Kong, Eric Rosenbaum, and David Schwartz.

This year's competition included a diverse collection of events. They ranged from rigorous scientific categories including Chemistry Lab and Cell Biology to more general events such as Road Scholars and Scrambler. One of the humorous trial events, which all of the students enjoyed, was Eggonautics. The object of this event was to create a contraption which could hurl an egg at great distances without breaking. The most common invention was a basic slingshot. There were, of course, numerous versions of this model.

Junior Josie Lee thus applauded the team's freshman members for their creative contrivance, "The freshmen did a very good job in Eggonautics. They worked very hard." Senior co-captain Susan Park was also extremely enthusiastic about the Eggonautics event. "Eggonautics was a good way to end the tournament," she commented. "All the teams from each school were together and everyone was laughing and supporting each other."

Although the competition ran smoothly, there were a few minor problems. Mainly, the equipment in some of the events was faulty or broken. Lee reported, "Some of the events in the competition were not carefully planned. For example, the meters used in the Water Quality event were kind of broken. They should have been checked."

Overall, the team agreed that the competition was a great experience. Junior Johanna Bobrow called the meet "definitely cool," adding that she "got to meet people from other schools and got to compete in interesting areas of science." Park was also very pleased that she "didn't know what to expect" from the newly formed team. Last year, the team finished eighth.. Park added, "Considering that there was heavy competition and that we were a team with many new members, I was very happy with fourth place."

Senior Andreas Hipple glares at the camera, which almost became scrap metal.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

Musket Position on Advertisement Issue is Sound and Well-Justified

Point of clarification: At the time this editorial was written, Musket *has not made a final decision on the advertisement, as it is currently in discussion. This editorial is in defense of the* Musket's *initial policy.*

"Censorship," "political prejudice," "denial of equal access," "dominated by the left." These are just some of the public accusations made by Douglas Yeo, spokesman for the Lexington Parents Information Network (LEXNET), against the yearbook and the *Musket* for their refusal to run ads urging students to practice abstinence. Mr. Yeo has since intensified his struggle by taking this issue to the local newspaper, the *Boston Globe,* and to all the major Boston T.V. and radio stations. In every case Mr. Yeo has asked innocently "what is wrong with advertising abstinence?"

The simple answer is that there is nothing wrong with advocating abstinence, but there is everything wrong with trying to force that message into the student publications.

Yeo is now threatening to bring legal action against the two student publications through the Rutherford Institute, a right-wing legal service group headquartered in Virginia, which has brought a number of cases nationwide against public school systems on "religious freedom" issues.

Stop. Before you begin to feel sorry for Mr. Yeo and his beleaguered organization, Let's look at the facts. Yeo is claiming that his group has been the innocent victim of arbitrary and illegal decisions dictated by the political ideologies of the two publications. No. The issue is not one of censorship. The *Musket* has never attempted to prevent LEXNET from getting its abstinence message to the students. Over a month ago we formally offered space on our editorial page under Letters to the Editor to Mr. Yeo and LEXNET so that they could "explicate [their] position on abstinence more fully that [they] would be able to in an ad format." Yeo refused, however, and indicated in a return letter that LEXNET was more interested in a public confrontation with the *Musket* and the yearbook than in presenting its message to LHS students in a letter.

The *Musket* position is simple. We do not believe that ads advocating certain lifestyle or sexual choices belong alongside ads for commercial products and services. We do not consider our ad space to be a public forum that should be opened up as a bulletin board for any message that any group wishes to place in it. We have historically set aside our Letters to the Editor section as a public forum which any person or group may use to advocate a point of view. Our restrictions on what would be printed in this section are extremely minimal.

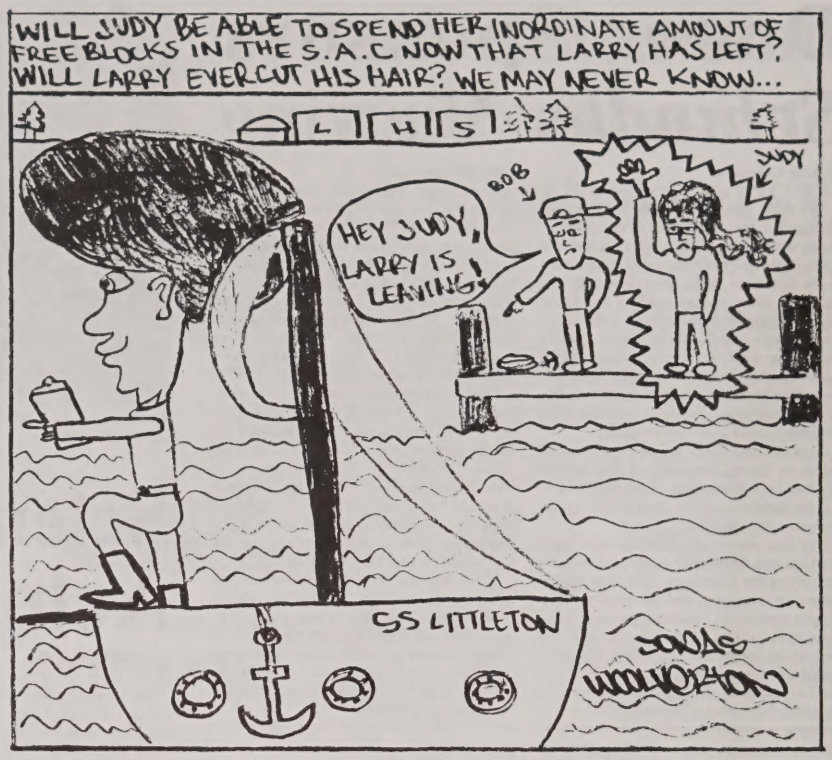
Fact: *Musket* believes that a message like the one LEXNET proposed to place in our paper is of such importance that it requires a more substantive discussion than would be possible in an ad. When asked why he did not choose to right a letter, Mr. Yeo provided little by way of an explanation. In addition, the ad Mr. Yeo submitted to *Musket* differed significantly from the yearbook ad in that it contained a line that said, "For accurate information on abstinence, safer sex and condoms, contact LEXNET..." Is the reader to then assume in reading this ad that their information is indeed accurate and that the information disseminated in Life Skills classes and in the condom packages available at the high school is inaccurate? The issue clearly requires a more open and wider ranging discussion.

If the *Musket* were to accept Mr. Yeo's contention that advertising abstinence is not potentially controversial, then who is to say that a counter ad advertising the practice of "safe sex," or even "unsafe sex," is likewise non-controversial. In a case heard before a U.S. Court of Appeals in San Diego, California in 1986 (*Committee Against Registration and the Draft v. Grossmont Union High School District),* a public school newspaper was forced to run an ad for an anti-draft organization because it had earlier run an ad for military recruitment. To avoid a similar occurrence, our position is simply to not open the advertising space of our paper to advocacy ads that have no products or services to sell and that have nothing directly to do with school activities.

This issue is neither about the merits of abstinence, nor censorship, nor political posturing on the part of the yearbook or the *Musket.* In the yearbook's case, they simply wish to preserve the integrity and the tone of school yearbooks by keeping their advertisements to those that they have historically run. Again, in our case, we have offered LEXNET space on our editorial page to convey their message to students at LHS. In either case, we believe that legally and ethically students do have, and should have, the right to decide what goes into their publications.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Yeo and his organization do not appear to respect the decisions of the students and have chosen to take this matter in a direction that is wholly unrelated in scale to the issue involved. We further regret that Mr. Yeo has brought into the picture an organization like the Rutherford Institute that probably has little interest in what the students at LHS or the people in Lexington wish to see happen.

—Offer Egozy and Li-Cheng Wang


WILL JUDY BE ABLE TO SPEND HER INORDINATE AMOUNT OF FREE BLOCKS IN THE S.A.C NOW THAT LARRY HAS LEFT? WILL LARRY EVER CUT HIS HAIR? WE MAY NEVER KNOW...
L H S
BOB
JUDY
HEY JUDY, LARRY IS LEAVING!
SS LITTLETON

Course Selection Revisited

"Should I take a low level class and get an 'A' or take a higher level and get a 'C'?" Sadly, this is a prevalent question asked with little thought or consideration.

First off, there is no guarantee that a level I course is going to be easier or is going to require less work than an honors class. The amount of work depends of the subject, the teacher and his/her expectations—not necessarily the level. A tough level I teacher might be more demanding and, for example, drill students with exercises much more than a colleague who teaches honors classes.

Secondly, some people are going to earn an 'A,' for example, in either an intensive level or honors level class. The academic environment may be different between classes of various levels (e.g., the pace of teaching and differences in student learning styles), and students will, by way of true dedication and proven achievement, be capable of work at the appropriate level or levels.

Moreover, a common misconception is that honors teachers are "better" than level I teachers. This blanket statement lacks reasoning. Not only do some teachers teach various levels during the school day, teachers at any level need the ability to teach and relate with pupils effectively depending on who their students are. The methods vary, but the demands are nonetheless significant. There isn't a "textbook profile" of who "can" teach honors classes and who "cannot."

In any case, one should be aware of one's progress, but one should come to school with a higher goal in mind: to learn.

—Kit Connoly

Our Classrooms Must Commit to Quality Control

As the proposed program cuts for next year demonstrate, Lexington is not immune to serious financial constraints that have hit many school systems hard. Quality control becomes even more imperative as budgets strap our schools further.

In our classrooms, for example, teachers should consistently utilize ideas such as classroom evaluations. The goal is for students to take a proactive role in how their classrooms function. Whether it is the helpful arrangement of desks in the classroom, the clarity of the teacher's grading policy, or the usefulness and effectiveness of certain assignments, such input can make classrooms better for everyone.

I have noticed that in classrooms where teachers request input from students, i.e., by way of periodic written evaluations and/or periodic feedback sessions, the level of trust and comfort is more evident. Teachers and students in such classrooms seem more willing to share feelings about classroom issues, and students seem more enthusiastic about attending those classes and doing well in them.

There is much evidence that supports evaluations and feedback in classrooms. It is well-known that in workplaces where employers feel as though they have a voice as well as a stake in the company's well-being, conflicts decrease while productivity increases. Applying this example to our schools, it would mean that our classrooms would be more conducive to learning

Every subject department here at LHS should corroborate that teachers are employing quality control techniques in their classrooms. Students should request that teachers start using evaluation methods if they do not see them happening.

Quality control is just a part of the picture, but it is an essential part of a healthy learning community. It demonstrates that there are many economical things that we can all do to help our schools.

—Ivan Chan

Musket

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LHS Participates in Global Affairs

by Ivan Chan

For us who watch the news, pictures of a war-torn Bosnia Herzegovina flash across our eyes, and just when we think peace is in the works, the crisis makes the headlines again. To gain a better understanding of the Bosnian situation and other international issues, a group of LHS students met every X Block since September to take part in Tufts University's INQUIRY program for high school students.

This was the second year that LHS participated in the program. INQUIRY is one of several programs initiated by EPIIC, which stands for Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship, and which is managed by Tufts Experimental College students and faculty.

"Its more important to look at the lessons that can be learned, including being able to negotiate effectively...We learned a lot about Bosnia's institutions, culture...which helped us to understand the whole issue over there, including historical and religious issues."

—Senior Li-Cheng Wang

After a successful run last year, history teacher Martha Zimmerman organized another group of students to study Ethnicity, Religion, and Nationalism , this year's EPIIC focus. The timely topic was chosen because, as senior participant Li-Cheng Wang commented, "ethnicity, religion, and nationalism issues are coming up after the cold war as highlighted by [the former Yugoslavia crisis]."

"There were a ton of readings," said junior and secretary Angela Kung. Among some of the topics studied by LHS's participants included the focus issues as well as self-determination, peacekeeping, and Eastern Europe. After reading and analyzing EPIIC materials at home, participants convened every week to discuss and further examine the issues at hand.

As with last year, the INQUIRY experience culminated with a "simulation" that took place on April 8-9 at Tufts. Preparation for the event required considerable hard work and preparation on the part of the LHS participants, who would be able to employ their knowledge in decision making and diplomatic brokering. In addition to the general readings, LHS was assigned to represent and study Kosovo, a province in Yugoslavia.

"Although Albanians are 90% of Kosovo's population, Serbia controls the province," remarked Kung, "Conditions are poor there and the Albanians [in Kosovo] want more representation in the government, for example." According to Kung and other participants, the aim then was to broker a deal with the Serbs to rectify the problems.

They got their chance on April 8-9. Over a dozen area schools, each representing a territory, nation, or international organization such as the NATO, took part in the two day simulation. LHS sent nearly 20 "diplomats" representing Kosovo to Tufts that weekend. After two days of debate and diplomacy, Lexington (Kosovo) got Serbian heads of state and factious Serbian opposition leaders to guarantee Kosovo its own autonomous province with most civil, economic, and cultural demands granted.

Was it realistic? "Its more important to look at the lessons that can be learned, including being able to negotiate effectively," said Wang. Asked if he obtained insight into the Bosnia crisis, Wang asserted, "We learned a lot about Bosnia's institutions, culture...which helped us to understand the whole issue over there, including historical and religious issues."

Members of this year's LHS delegation to EPIIC prepare to share new insights into the issues at hand.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

DARE Leaders Visit Classrooms

by Jennifer O' Connor

For the fourth year, thirty-two peer leaders trained with LHS Social Worker Martha Queenin in preparation for DARE (Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education) presentations to fifth and seventh graders. These LHS students work in collaboration with Lexington Police Officer Brian Spencer to educate the youth in town about the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse. Officer Spencer works with the fifth grade classes for seventeen weeks, covering such issues as peer pressure, self-esteem, and the media.

"Younger kids have myths that everyone uses drugs at the high school," noted Queenin, adding that "it is the job of the peer leaders to tell the truth that some kids at LHS do drugs, but not everyone." Furthermore, all peer leaders participating in the DARE program are required to sign a contract stating that they will not abuse any substances while they are working in the two-month program. "The contract is for credibility," explained sophomore Kate Peltz, a new member of the DARE team. "We want to be honest with the kids and can not go out on a Saturday and get drunk and Monday morning tell kids not to use alcohol."

The peer leaders have prepared role plays to present to the classes with the message that "yes, some people do drink," but that one does not necessarily have to befriend them. Peer leaders emphasize that is still considered cool to say "no."

Peer Leaders are very enthusiastic about the project. Senior Kate Olivier, a returning fourth year DARE peer leader, emphasized the excitement teaching the classes, "The best part about DARE is after the presentation. We go out to recess with the kids and that is when they feel very comfortable opening up to you, asking questions about their fears and interests." For peer leaders, the DARE experience provides a chance to influence the lives of younger kids who see the high school kids as role models.

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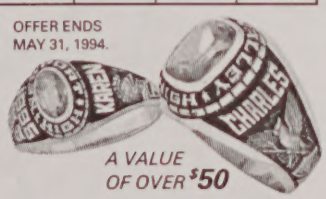

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Please Refer Questions to:

Shelley Chamberlain at 861-2391 or chamberlain@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us

Senate Social Action Committee members take a break from deciding on community service proposals.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

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With senior pitcher John Wells on the mound, Middlesex League hitters will have a blast, literally.

Photo from Musket *file*

Successful LHS Winter

by JR Rudman

The wrestling team came roaring back this year with an amazing 20-2 record, winning their last 12 dual meets, and finishing as runner-up in Division I Central. Key wrestlers on this year's team in the lighter weights were sophomores Billy Goulopolous and Carmine Rullo, the latter winning twice in the Division I State Championships. In the middleweights, Lexington was especially strong with senior quad-captains Jared Ruquist, Kaom Te, Eric Goulston, and Graham Taylor each putting together successful seasons. In addition, the team also was presented with the Division I Sportsmanship Award at the State Championship.

The LHS girls' basketball team, who finished the season undefeated in the Middlesex League with a perfect 18-0 record and with a ranking in the Boston Globe's top 20 poll. A key player on this year's team was senior co-captain Deanna Mellican, who surprisingly was left off the All-league first team, playing in the league all-star game as a substitute along with teammate, junior guard Jessica Hurt. Another Minutemaid all-star, but a first stringer, was senior center and co-captain Chris Yasaitis, an obvious choice for league MVP, averaging over 20 points a game, leading the league in that category, and in the process landing a spot on the Middlesex league top 10 list. Though the Minutemaids did not win over Haverhill in the tourney, they racked up an impressive season and put another blue and gold banner on the already crowded walls of the Ralph Lord Gymnasium.

When you talk about LHS basketball you also have to bring up the boys team, who ended a successful season with a 12-7 record and provided fans with an entertaining year. The Minutemen, still reeling from the pre-season loss of starting center Sean Groer started the season off with a 11-4 mark which allowed them to grab a spot in the state tournament, a place which has become a second home to the Minutemen in previous seasons.

> Moving to the field house, the boys' and girls' track teams each enjoyed excellent seasons, backing up their stellar reputations with 8-1 and 6-3 records respectively.

Players who helped provide the Minutemen with a playoff berth were junior Brek Kohler, a Middlesex league first team all-star, senior Aaron Goldberg, a second team all-star, and senior Mike Prensky, who was the team's leader on the floor. With the team having many up and coming players, Minutemen fans can look forward to another good season.

Moving to the field house, the boys' and girls' track teams each enjoyed excellent seasons, backing up their stellar reputations with 8-1 and 6-3 records respectively. Starring for the girls' team this year was senior distance runner Cara Attanucci, who blew away the field in the 10,000 meters and in the mile. Key components on a well balanced boys' team this year were senior 2 miler Lowell Ladd, senior Greg Landel, and speedy senior Johann Jack, who turned the 45 yard dash into his own personal record book, setting the current record of an amazing 4.9 seconds in the boys' final match against Wakefield.

From track cleats to bathing trunks, the LHS boys' swim team also finished this year with a superior 6-1 record and a second place finish at the Middlesex tourney at the end of the year. An extremely balanced team, the Minutemen were led by senior captains Brian Smith, Dave Santucci, and junior Chris Randall . The Minutemen will have to try hard to better this year's excellent record, and with talented underclassmen waiting in the wings, the LHS swim team could become a long term force to be reckoned with.

Finally, the Minutemen hockey team made a vast improvement on last year's record, and finished the season with a shutout, a tie, and when the ice chips cleared, a 9-10-1 overall record. Five players were named to the Middlesex league all-star team. The players who made the team were: senior goalie Rob Tavilla, senior left wing John Hatfield, sophomore center Tom Leyne, senior defenseman Brian Lavalle, and senior captain Doug Scott. The player with the most accolades at the end of the season was Tavilla, who was chosen as one of only two goalies on the All-League team.

Good expectations are for the lacrosse team, whose veterans are in shape to do battle.

Photo from Musket *file*

Spring Teams Geared, Ready

by Andreas Hipple

We all have read and heard that the boys' lax team is supposed to be good, really good. Not that I want to put any pressure on them or anything, but they should be. With a lineup that includes senior attackers Jesse Green and Alex Kurtz, and senior middies Colby Crogan and T.R. Ludwig, these guys should be fun to watch. The greater part of last year's very strong team returns to make a run at perennial contenders Lincoln-Sudbury, Billerica, etc.

The Minutemaids' lacrosse squad comes off its finest season in many years, one that nearly brought a state tournament berth. The team lost a host of starters to graduation but expect to come back strong with a solid core of seniors and juniors, including Crystal Chow, Allison Petner, Abby Crocker, and Caroline Kasparian, among others. With hard work and a bit of luck, this could be the year the team does some damage in the state tourney.

On the tennis courts the girls will be lead by seniors Liz Dubin and Katie Fleiss as well as freshman Arina Zohrabian. This year the team hopes to compete in the top half of the league playoffs against the best the Middlesex League has to offer; last year they were nudged to the lower draw, which offered little competition. Things are bound to be interesting.

The boys' team, new shirts and all, hopes to follow last season's fine second place finish with another push toward a league title. Expect Winchester and Burlington to once again provide tough competition. Only two seniors graduated, so this squad has had some experience. In fact, six lettermen are returning, including seniors Parker Coffman and Andreas Hipple as well as juniors Carlos Reyes and Andrew Zimmer. Some tense, heart-pounding tennis is to be expected.

The baseball squad once again has senior all-scholastic pitcher John Wells on the mound, along with junior hurlers Brek Kohler and Chris O'Connell. Senior Paul Blume is back at first base. The Minutemen suffered a setback toward the end of the winter basketball season as strong-armed senior catcher Matt Scully blew out his knee. Moving in from the outfield to handle duties behind the plate will be senior Adam Maloof. LHS baseball's second tournament bid since 1976 is certainly within reach.

The softballers, always at or near the top of the Middlesex League, should once again give every opponent a difficult time. Despite no longer having any of the amazing Harrington sisters on the pitcher's mound, the girls intend to show everyone that LHS softball is number one. Only five seniors graduated last June, so this is another team of veteran winners.

The boys' track team is coming off a tough 2-7 spring '93 campaign. Head Coach Arthur Dulong's crew can be expected to move up in the standings this year, although a league title is unlikely. Individually, look for seniors Johann Jack, Greg Landel, Graham Taylor, and "Boy Lowell" Ladd to contend in state competitions.

The girls fared slightly better last year (4-5). Only five athletes from the '93 group left for college, so this year's unit has some experience on the track. A gifted bunch of seniors, including Cara Attanucci, Hannah Neumeier, Ann Sukeforth, and Kerrie Joseph, among others, make up the heart of the Minutemaid tracksters. They are supported by some solid juniors and sophomores.

Spring has arrived, and with it comes another exciting sports schedule.

Spring Track Teams have commenced their seasons while practicing hard at the Center Playground.

Photo from Musket *file*

Track Shocks Tourney

by Andreas Hipple

You may have noticed that the boys' indoor track team ended its winter season as state champions. However, you may also be aware that the very same team finished second in the Middlesex League after a resounding defeat to Reading. How can a team that is not even the best in its league be the best in the state? It is a question of numbers, really.

In head-to-head competition, it is often more important to have depth instead of two or three top performers. There are many points available, and each athlete can only take part in a limited number of events per meet. Those top point-winners may take quite a few points, but the team can lose if the opponent consistently takes seconds and thirds along with a few victories. Usually the squad with many decent to good competitors will defeat the team with only a few top finishers.

In the state competition, only the very best score points. Because so many towns take part, and only a few athletes from each town qualifies for state competition, the teams with a few athletes who can win or grab second or third place will triumph. Such was the case for Lexington this winter. Senior sprinter Johann Jack gained ten points with his victory in the dash, senior distance runner Lowell Ladd fought to a second place finish and eight points in the two mile, and senior middle distance runner Greg Landel managed a third in the 600, good for another six points.

That gave LHS its twenty-four point total, an amount no other Massachusetts high school team could match. Thanks to those three runners we are once again state champions.